

Mr. Speaker, at the height of the Civil War in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln wrote, "Honor to the Soldier, and Sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause." Each of us in this chamber and in this nation should be humbled by the courage of these brave veterans who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Central Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country.

THE ASTRODOME: THE EIGHTH
WONDER OF THE WORLD AND
NOW A TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL
MARKER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the Houston Astros lead their division, Houstonians can't help but look forward to another exciting season of Astros baseball. As the home of the reigning champions, the people of Houston have a lot to be proud of, and a lot to remember.

Today Astros games are played in the beautiful Minute Maid Ballpark, however many of us old timers remember watching the team's first game in the Astrodome in 1965. There was simply nothing else like the Dome. The players would stand in centerfield and try to hit balls straight up to see if they could hit the roof. It was a marvel for both the players and fans. It was the world's first domed stadium, the only stadium in sports to offer luxury suites, and—since everything is bigger in Texas—the largest dome on Earth.

Home to the Houston Astros for three decades, the stadium has seen thousands of people from all over our country. But Mr. Speaker, baseball fans were not the only ones making their way through the iconic Dome's doors. Elvis Presley performed seven times in the stadium, the Battle of the Sexes tennis match was played here, and the world famous Houston Livestock Show and Radio was held in the Dome for many years. Though the Dome has seen its fair share of cowboys, movie stars, and baseball players, perhaps its greatest moment was when it was transformed into a home for over 60,000 refugees fleeing the destruction of Katrina.

The Astrodome is not an abandoned baseball stadium; it is a part of Houston and Texas history. Nicknamed the Eighth wonder of the world, the Dome is a landmark loved by all Houstonians. Just recently it received its fitting designation as a Texas Historic Landmark. Though it has gone its many years without official recognition, the Astrodome has always been admired by those Houstonians and Texans who know its history. Now, the Astrodome takes its proper place in Texas history as an official Texas Historic Landmark.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING ANGEL ANDERSON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Angel Anderson and her store, The SpiceSuite, on becoming the 2018 District of Columbia Small Business of the Year. This distinction is awarded as part of our 21st annual District of Columbia Small Business Fair, which we are holding today at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

This year, we are proud to honor Angel and The SpiceSuite, a store located at 6902 4th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20012 where customers can customize spice blends and find unique products like coconut vanilla infused honey and blueberry sugar. Angel opened The SpiceSuite just two years ago as the manifestation of a dream she did not know she had, and has since cultivated it into a community staple. A D.C. native, Angel graduated from Banneker High School, and went on to earn both her bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology from Howard University. After completing her studies, she worked in education for nine years, focusing mainly on underserved communities. Angel began her teaching career at the District's Oak Hill Youth Center, eventually moving on to be a counselor and later an assistant principal at the Cesar Chavez Public Charter School.

The SpiceSuite is an extension of Angel's passion for community service. She operates the store as an avenue to promote other women-owned small businesses by sharing its space with these businesses to launch and sell their products. She has offered this opportunity to over 200 small businesses to date, at no cost to them. Angel continues to employ the various platforms at her disposal to engage the public and advocate for the underserved.

Our fair highlights the importance of small businesses to the District's economy. It provides critical information, counseling and resources to aspiring and current D.C. small business owners. Small businesses are a crucial lifeline in our local economy, and the District thrives because of the expanding success of small businesses throughout the District. We thank the Washington Convention Center for hosting us again this year; the workshop experts who are providing valuable information and assistance to small businesses; and, of course, all of the small business participants.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Angel Anderson, as well as in celebrating small businesses across the District. In the District and in districts around the country, small businesses continue to make indispensable contributions to our economies and communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for the vote on passage of H.R. 8 (Roll Call No.

238). Had I been present, I would have voted Yes on final passage.

This bill is the result of a strong bipartisan process, and includes multiple projects beneficial to Colorado.

HONORING GORDON L. "BOX"
BOCHER

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service, scholarship, and contributions of Maj. Gordon L. "Box" Bocher, United States Air Force, retired. Specifically, I'd like to recognize his recent essay based upon his experiences during the Vietnam War. A resident of New Jersey, Maj. Gordon L. "Box" Bocher served in the United States Air Force from January of 1968 until June of 1980.

From February of 1972 until February of 1973, Gordon, served in the 16th Special Operations Squadron as a Fire Control Officer (FCO) assigned to fly the AC-130A Gunship. During that year, he flew over 170 combat sorties. He was in-theatre when the armistice was signed in Paris on January 27, 1973. While compiling research for his book and doing speaking tours, Gordon found a great deal of misinformation regarding the last year of the Vietnam War. He felt compelled to tell his story through an informative essay detailing his experiences.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey are tremendously honored to have Maj. Gordon L. "Box" Bocher, Ret. as a dedicated member of our community. It is because of his honorable service to our nation, his dedication to his community, and his work to honor the memory of all who served alongside with him, that I rise to recognize his scholarly contributions before the United State House of Representatives.

EMBRACING AUTISM

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, transitioning into adulthood from high school to college can be a difficult time for anyone. Balancing things such as what classes to take for your major, meeting new people, and finding time to study can be overwhelming. Now imagine doing all of those things while having autism.

Shaelynn "Shae" Castle was initially diagnosed with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder in elementary school. It wasn't until middle school when she was properly diagnosed with autism. Shae struggled socially and academically, but with the support of her family and the Humble ISD Mosaic Program, she worked hard to learn the skills to advocate for herself.

The Mosaic Program helps people with disabilities from ages 18 to 21 transition from high school to become more independent adults. While attending Mosaic, students have